



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
District of Minnesota**

Frank J. Magill, Acting United States Attorney

David Anderson, Public Affairs Specialist
(612) 664-5684; cell: (612) 730-2251

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, Jan. 14, 2008

2 indicted in separate bank robberies

A St. Paul man and a Colorado man were charged last week in separate federal indictments with bank robbery.

Shane Nathaniel Townsend, 35, St. Paul, was indicted Jan. 7 with two counts of bank robbery in connection with the Dec. 5 and Dec. 11, 2007, robberies of the TCF Bank, located at 459 North Lexington Ave., St. Paul.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Townsend was witnessed boarding a public bus on University Avenue following the second of the two robberies. St. Paul police stopped the bus and arrested Townsend after he attempted to flee out the back of the bus.

Townsend's indictment alleges that on Dec. 5, 2007, he did by force, violence and intimidation take approximately \$3,065 from the TCF Bank, located at 459 North Lexington. The second count alleges that Townsend took approximately \$450 from the same bank on Dec. 11.

If convicted, Townsend faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years on each count. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the FBI and the St. Paul Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nathan P. Petterson.

In a separate indictment filed on Jan. 7, Rico Lee Ayler, 22, Aurora, Colo., was charged with one count of bank robbery. Ayler's indictment alleges that on Nov. 21, 2007, he did by force, violence and intimidation take approximately \$7,441 from the US Bank, located at 2299 Palmer Drive in New Brighton.

According to an affidavit filed by the FBI, Ayler skipped ahead of a line of customers and handed a teller a note stating his intentions. He shouted, "Nobody move or I'll shoot. I'm not kidding," the affidavit stated.

Witness information helped authorities track down Ayler, who was arrested Dec. 18 in his Aurora apartment.

If convicted, Ayler faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the investigation by the FBI and the New Brighton Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly A. Svendsen.

–30–

An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.